



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR CONTAMINATED MEAT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owner of a defunct food processing and distribution company was sentenced in federal court today for storing meat in unsanitary conditions, which caused thousands of pounds of meat to become contaminated by rodents.

Linh Vi Lam, 47, owner of Lam Foods, Inc., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to three years of probation and a \$5,000 fine.

On June 21, 2004, **Lam** pleaded guilty to offering adulterated food for sale.

Lam's firm, which did business as Big Bird Poultry at 2307 Troost in Kansas City, Mo., processed cuts of chicken and other meat for distribution to various hotels and restaurants in the Kansas City area. Big Bird Poultry is no longer in business, although **Lam** continues to operate Lam Foods, Inc.

Lam admitted that she caused 6,935 pounds of beef, pork and lamb to become adulterated by storing it under unsanitary conditions. The meat became contaminated by rodent infestation, rodent hair, gnawing and fecal matter, rendering the meat unhealthful and unfit for human consumption.

Federal inspectors discovered the infestation during an inspection of the business on April 2, 2001. **Lam** admitted that she knew about the rodent infestation. For about a month, Graves said, the plant manager swept away the rodent droppings prior to regular inspections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Graves added that all of the meat, along with 22,780 pounds of contaminated chicken, was destroyed before it could be distributed from **Lam's** facility.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Services.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow